

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for assisting left-handed manipulation of a vehicle ignition switch by an individual for a vehicle having a steering wheel, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

providing the vehicle with ~~an ignition switch having a key slot to the left of the steering wheel~~ a steering wheel column having a rotatable collar containing an ignition switch; and, rotating the collar so as to provide the ignition switch to the left or right side of the steering wheel such that the ignition switch can be located for convenient ignition key insertion by a left- or right-handed person such that the ignition switch may be turned on by insertion of an ignition key into the key slot with the left hand of the individual, whereby the vehicle may be started by only using the left hand.

2. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1, and further including the step of providing the vehicle with an additional ignition switch having a slot to the right of the steering wheel, thus to give the individual the option of starting the vehicle with either a left hand or a right hand.

3. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a dashboard and wherein the ignition switch is mounted at the dashboard.

4. (Canceled) The method of Claim 2, wherein the vehicle has a dashboard and wherein both ignition switches are mounted at different places on the dashboard.

5. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a steering column and wherein the ignition switch is mounted to the steering column.
6. (Canceled) The method of Claim 5, and further including an additional ignition switch having a key slot and mounted at the steering column to permit manipulation by the ignition key inserted into the corresponding key switch from the right.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the steering wheel is lockable and unlocked by manipulation of the ignition switch, and wherein the ignition key manipulation also results in unlocking the steering wheel.
8. (Canceled) The method of Claim 2, wherein the steering wheel is lockable and unlocked by either ignition switch.
9. (Canceled) The method of Claim 2, wherein the two ignition switches operate in parallel to turn on the vehicle.
10. (Canceled) The method of Claim 9, wherein the steering wheel is lockable and unlocked by manipulation of either of the two ignition switches, and wherein the two ignition switches operate in parallel to unlock the steering wheel.

11. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a steering column and further including a rotatable collar on the steering column, the collar on the steering column, carrying the ignition switch such that the ignition switch may be rotated by rotation of the collar from the right side of the steering wheel to the left side of the steering wheel, and from the left side of the steering wheel to the right side of the steering wheel at the election of the individual.

12. (Currently amended) A vehicle ignition system for a vehicle having a steering wheel, comprising, an ignition switch mounted to the left of said wheel, said vehicle having a dashboard, said ignition switch mounted at said dashboard to the left of said steering wheel.

13. (Canceled) The system of Claim 12, wherein said vehicle has a dashboard and wherein said ignition switch is mounted at said dashboard to the left of said wheel.

14. (Canceled) The system of Claim 12, wherein said vehicle has a steering column and wherein said ignition switch has a key slot and mounted is at said steering column, such that an ignition key is insertable into said key slot from the left.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The system of Claim 14~~ A vehicle ignition system for a vehicle having a steering wheel and a steering column and further including a rotatable collar on said steering column, said ignition switch being mounted on said collar such that said key slot may be made to face right or left depending on the rotational position of said collar.

16. (Canceled) The system of Claim 12, and further including a steering wheel locking mechanism, manipulation of said ignition switch to start said vehicle also unlocking said steering wheel locking mechanism, whereby said ignition switch may be easily manipulated by the left hand for both starting said vehicle and unlocking said steering wheel locking mechanism.
17. (Canceled) The system of Claim 12, and further including an additional ignition switch accessible from the right of said steering wheel and operable to duplicate the functions of said first-mentioned ignition switch.
18. (Canceled) A vehicle ignition system for a vehicle having a steering station, comprising an ignition switch mounted to the left of said steering station.
19. (Added) A method of assisting left-handed manipulation of a vehicle ignition switch by an individual for a vehicle having a steering station, comprising the step of providing an ignition switch on the dashboard of the vehicle to the left of the steering station at a position easily accessible by a left-handed individual seated at the steering station.
20. (Added) The method of Claim 19, and further including providing an ignition switch on the dashboard to the right of the steering station at a position easily accessible to a right-handed individual seated at the steering station, thereby to provide a universal left-handed/ right-handed dashboard-mounted ignition system.

21. (Added) The method of Claim 20, wherein the ignition switches are mounted during the manufacture of the vehicle.

22. (Added) The method of Claim 20, wherein the ignition switches are connected in parallel.